

## ***General Tobacco Facts in Mississippi***

### *Tobacco facts in Mississippi*

- The 2003 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey showed that 25.6% of the adults in Mississippi were current smokers. The highest rates were seen within the male cohort (31.0%); the White cohort (26.9%) and (32.5%) adults aged forty-five through fifty-four. Mississippi reports higher levels of cigarette smoking than national (25.6 vs. 22.0 respectively). Trends data from the survey indicated that from 1999 to 2002 cigarette consumption has increased from 22.9 percent to 27.3 percent.
- Among Mississippi's youth population 34.7% of white females reported smoking one or more days in the past thirty days. Their numbers have been consistently higher than any other group from 1999 to 2003, according to the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System Survey. The total percentage of youth that have ever tried cigarettes has continually decreased since 1997. The overall prevalence rate of cigarette smoking showed a steady decline from 1997 to 2003 (31.3 % vs. 25.0 % respectively). Black males are more likely to smoke cigars (30.0 % versus 22.0 % among white males) than any other group. White males are more likely to use smokeless tobacco (15.2% compared to 2.3% in the Black male population) in Mississippi.
- More than 400,000 deaths in the U.S. each year are attributed to cigarette smoking. In Mississippi, more than 13,000 people died from smoking-related diseases in 2004.
- All tobacco related mortality categories decreased by over 4.5% from 1990 to 2000 and continued a slow decline of about 2.5% from 2000 to 2004. Heart disease accounted for over 8,000 deaths in the state of Mississippi during 2004 according to data provided by the Mississippi State Department of Health, Division of Vital Statistics.
- Mississippi Department of Health mortality data indicate that lung cancer in Mississippi has increased by over 0.60 % since 1990 with the largest increase between 1990 and 2000 and a relatively large increase between 2003 and 2004.
- Tobacco-related illnesses costs the State of Mississippi Medicaid System \$264 million dollars every year

